

**Millstone Township
Agricultural Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for October 23, 2017**
470 Stage Coach Road, Millstone Township, NJ 08510

Mr. Asprocolas called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: (3) Asprocolas, Dancer, Peck

Absent: (3) Butch, Pinhas, Posten

Public Comment: Opened and closed at 7:32 PM with no public in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Mr. Asprocolas with a Second offered by Mr. Dancer to approve the May 22, 2017, minutes.

AYES: (2) Asprocolas, Dancer

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

A Motion was made by Mr. Peck with a Second offered by Mr. Asprocolas to approve the June 26, 2017, minutes.

AYES: (2) Peck, Asprocolas

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Correspondence

- Memo from Secretary Fisher dated 8/8/17 RE: Farmland Preservation appropriations bills signed.
- Email from SADC dated 8/30/17 RE: Right to Farm Outreach Efforts for 2017 - 2018; copies of guidebooks and fact sheets provided to Council members.
- Email from SADC dated 9/11/17 RE: 2019 Annual County and Municipal Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) Application Cycle. A draft of the annual application was distributed for review. Council members discussed updates to the target farm list including the addition of the Peplowski, Skeba and Sage farms. The application will be sent to the County for review and approval and will be submitted to the SADC prior to the December 15th deadline.
- Letter from the Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board dated 9/14/17 RE: Monmouth County Comprehensive Farmland Plan - Target Farm List Update; The County target farm list was distributed for review.
- Memo from SADC dated 9/18/17 RE: Update on Soil and Water Conservation Cost-Share Grants.
- Memo from SADC dated 10/2/17 RE: FY2017 Appropriation Summary.
- Letter from NJ Farm Bureau received 10/10/17. The Council's membership has been renewed.

Old Business

- Large Animal OEM Plan: No discussion.
- Farm Leases: No discussion.
- Open Space Trust Account Activity: The 2017 activity report, with information through September, was distributed for review. The open space tax levy was deposited to the trust in August.

- Wildlife Management on Farms Next to Parkland: Mr. Asprocolas attended a meeting, coordinated by the NJ Farm Bureau, to discuss deer damage to crops. Pockets of overpopulation occur when land that was available for hunting is preserved as parkland and hunting is restricted. Council members discussed options to control the overpopulation of deer and potential legislative action.
- Working with County on Legislative Issues: No discussion.
- Farmland Preservation Process: The Ag Council will work in conjunction with the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council on future applications and site assessments.
- Fall Newsletter: The newsletter was mailed to residents on September 29th.

Pending Legislation and Regulations

- SADC Regulations: The soil disturbance case is pending a determination by the Supreme Court.

Events

- The Annual NJ Land Rally will be held on March 2nd in New Brunswick.

New Business

- 2018 Budget: The budget request will include funding for two newsletters, to be split with the Open Space Council, funding for Council members to attend the annual land rally and funding for advertising the meeting schedule.
- Livestock Survey: The survey is being distributed via the Ag Council's email contact list and the Township's website and PEG channel.

Having no further business to discuss, a Motion was made by Mr. Dancer with a Second offered by Mr. Peck and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Maher
Council Secretary